



RMP News

Preliminary Alternatives...

Dear Reader:

We have been very fortunate with the level of public involvement in the preparation of the Resource Management Plans for both the Bruneau Planning Area and the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. Because of your commitment to the process, we hope to have a final document in which everyone can take ownership.

As with many things, this involvement hasn't come without a price and that price has been your time, and the time it is taking to get products out for your review. We think the price has been worth it and hope you agree. Many thanks to all of you.

Since the last newsletter the Teams have been working on alternatives and we believe we have captured much of what you have said so far.

Alternative development is the heart of the planning process and is your first opportunity to help identify specific land management actions you would like to see.

With that said, I would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming public meetings to review the **preliminary** draft of the alternatives.

Because of the complexity of the alternatives, we have decided to not distribute them before the public meetings. The alternatives are fully integrated and, without explanation, it would be very difficult to interpret the description of each alternative. We will distribute the alternatives at the meetings and they will be posted on our website.

The meetings won't be the typical "open house" format that you are familiar with. Please check out the details that are outlined in this newsletter.

As I said earlier, this is a look at the "preliminary" alternatives and is not the formal comment period on the Draft EIS that you will be provided later on. You'll have 30 days to review the preliminary alternatives and let us know what you think.

I sincerely hope you will join us at one or more of the meetings and **thanks again for your time and effort.**

Mike O'Donnell
Planning Team Lead



Snake River Birds of Prey
National Conservation Area



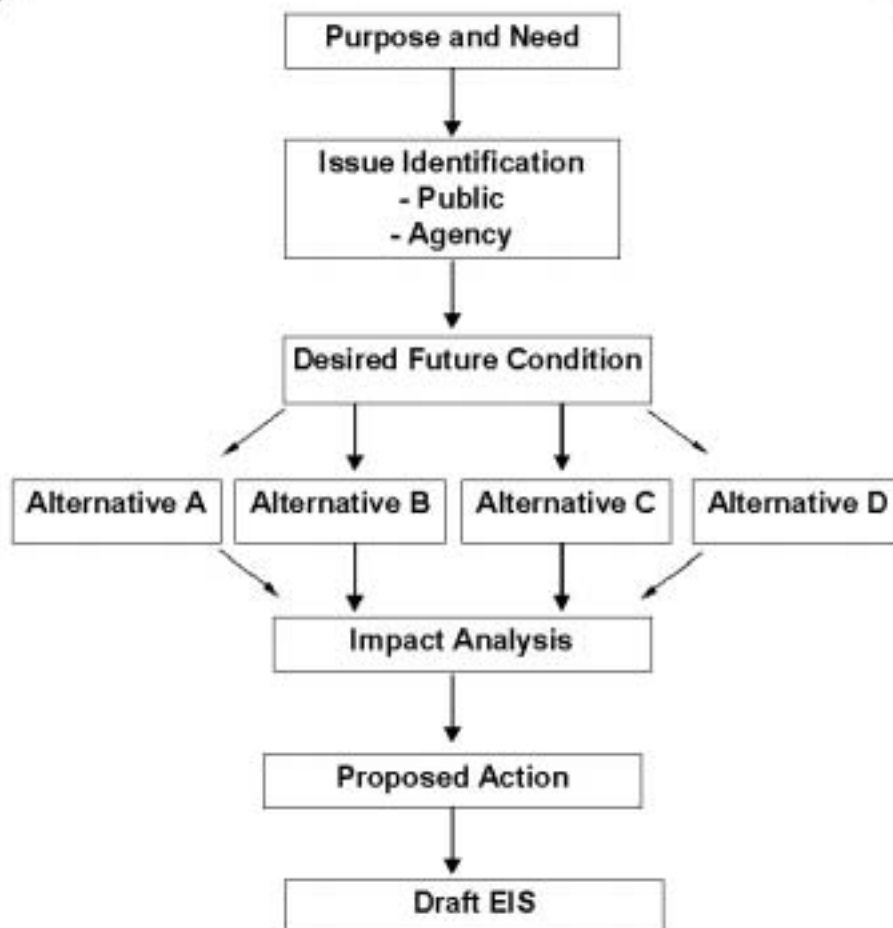
Bruneau Planning Area

HIGHLIGHTS

- Preliminary Alternatives
- Process Flowchart for Developing Alternatives
- Route Designations
- Public Meeting Schedule and Process
- Impact Analysis
- How to contact us



Process for Developing Alternatives ...



Agency proposed action may be identified with the initial alternatives or may be a modified alternative based on the impact analysis

...Route Designations to be included in the process

Land use planning guidance directs us, as a minimum, to identify lands open, closed or limited to specific routes as a part of the RMP. The actual route designations in the "limited" area are then made as a part of the implementation actions following the adoption of the RMP. The same guidance encourages us to begin the route designation process as soon as possible. Given the importance of route designations, we are going to begin the process during the development of the RMPs so that they can be implemented soon after the completion of the RMPs.

We have contracted with Advance Resource Solutions, Inc. (ARS) who has extensive background in travel management planning. ARS has developed a system for completing this task that is systematic and will help us develop a reasonable range of alternatives that can be analyzed.

We will not be able to complete proposed route designations prior to the completion of the Draft EIS and may not even have all designations complete prior to publishing the RMP. However, we have developed a process that will allow us to move ahead in a consistent way.

Because of the complexity of the process and size of the planning areas, we won't be going into much detail regarding route designations at the public meetings. However, we will be holding a separate meeting to discuss the route analysis process and look at how this process can be applied to the two planning areas. We will notify you when the meeting is scheduled.

...Public Meeting Schedule & Process



Snake River Birds of Prey NCA

Monday, June 28

Elks Lodge
325 South 3rd West
Mountain Home, ID

Wednesday, June 30

Boise High School Cafeteria
1010 W Washington (downtown - 10th & State St)

Boise, ID

Thursday, July 1

Kuna High School Commons
637 E Deerflat
Kuna, ID

Bruneau Planning Area

Monday, July 12

Rimrock Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria
Highway 78
Bruneau, ID

Tuesday, July 13

Boise High School Cafeteria
1010 W Washington (downtown -10th & State St)
Boise, ID

Thursday, July 15

Jefferson Middle School Multi-purpose Room
3311 S 10th Avenue
Caldwell, ID

All Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

As mentioned earlier, these meetings won't be held in the typical "open house" format, but will be structured to facilitate discussions about each of the preliminary alternatives.

After a brief introduction and an overview of the preliminary alternatives, you will be given an opportunity to participate in up to four break-out groups where BLM resource specialists will provide additional details regarding the alternatives, maps, time frames, etc. You will be encouraged to ask questions and provide your initial thoughts about the alternatives.

We realize you won't have had an opportunity to fully understand the alternatives at the meetings, and therefore, may not be able to provide full comments until you've had an opportunity to look things over in detail. So comment forms will be provided at the end of the meeting(s) and will be available through our planning website.

As with other steps in the RMP development process, BLM staff are available to meet with individual groups and/or organizations about what we are proposing and why we are proposing it.

Since alternatives are the "heart" of an RMP, your comments are important and we will make every effort to answer your questions prior to publishing the Draft RMP/EIS.

The meetings will provide you with:

- an update of where we are in the RMP process,
- an overview of how the alternatives were developed,
- an introduction to the draft alternatives,
- an opportunity to learn how the alternatives address the specific issues and resource concerns you identified earlier, and
- an opportunity to ask questions about the alternatives.

A reasonable alternative is one that achieves, in large part, the agency's defined purpose and need while achieving the environmental standards described by the planning criteria.



Bureau of Land Management
Lower Snake River District
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

STOP

Is your name and address on the mailing label correct? If not, please call Mary Jones at 384-3305 or e-mail Mary_Jones@BLM.gov

Impact Analysis - BLM has contracted with URS to conduct the impact analysis on both planning projects. URS is currently finalizing the significance criteria to be used during the analysis. This information will be posted to the planning web site as soon as it's available.

How to Contact us...

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384-3315

Jenna Whitlock
Owyhee Field Office Manager
384-3330

John Sullivan
NCA Manager
384-3338

In addition, we have set up two e-mail accounts specifically for the LSRD Resource Management Plans
ID_Birds_of_Prey_RMP@BLM.gov ID_Bruneau_RMP@BLM.gov

Check out our planning web site at: www.id.BLM.gov